

## **Bill Summary**

### **H.R. 1528: New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act (Rep. Olver, D-MA)**

The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett (MMM) Trail System is a 190-mile trail route, in existence for over half a century, which extends from the Massachusetts border with New Hampshire through western Massachusetts and Connecticut toward Long Island Sound.

The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-338) directed the Secretary of the Interior to study this trail system for potential addition to the National Trails System.

The resulting National Park Service feasibility study found that the MMM Trail System hosts an array of scenic features, classic New England landscapes, and historic sites. The preferred alternative identified in the study calls for the establishment of the New England National Scenic Trail to incorporate most of the MMM Trail system, adjusted by some reroutes and proposed extensions, for a total proposed length of approximately 220 miles.

H.R. 1528 would implement the preferred alternative. The bill is supported by the Administration, has bipartisan support, including the representatives of all affected districts in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and the affected local communities. The trail network is a highly popular route, predominantly managed and maintained by volunteers.

The route of the trail crosses land owned by state and local governments and by private landowners; no federal land is involved. The NPS study identified no need for direct federal trail ownership or direct federal trail management. The role of the National Park Service in implementing the proposed designation would be one of technical and financial assistance to existing trail partners – including state, tribal, regional and local agencies, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association – coordinated through a non-regulatory Trail Stewardship Council.